

The Summertown B team had its first match of the season on Tuesday evening, against Oxford G, playing on the BBO website. There were some hiccups at the start, partly because I had provided *two* incorrect BBO names to the Oxford match host (Liza Furnival). The actual play went rather better, to say the least. Although we had a few bad hands, things in general went very much our way, and we ended up winning by 161 IMPs to 27, giving us 20 VPs to 0. My attempt at Butler scoring for our individual pairs gives Moira & Trevor +82, which must be close to a record, and Kati & Tunde were not far behind. We had one slam hand, bid & made by one Summertown partnership, while one Oxford pair stopped short of game – resulting in the biggest swing of the night

Here is a deal that no-one got quite right.

	♠ 63	
	♥ J10973	
	♦ J95	
	♣ 732	
♠ KQ8		♠ A742
♥ 6542		♥ AQ
♦ K106		♦ Q732
♣ Q98		♣ AK10
	♠ J1095	
	♥ K8	
	♦ A84	
	♣ J654	

All four tables played in 3NT by West. Two declarers benefitted from defensive errors and made their contracts, and two went down. In each case a heart was led, sometimes ♥J, and sometimes ♥7 (!). If declarer decides South might have ♥K it would be good to play the ace from dummy at trick one, so as to block the suit if it breaks 5-2. But on each occasion declarer tried the finesse, which lost, and a heart was returned. The fall of the cards suggests that North did indeed start with 5 hearts, so Declarer now needs the ♦A to be with South, and must either make 4 spade tricks plus one in diamonds, or 3 spade tricks plus 2 in diamonds. It makes

sense to test the spades next, since the outcome might determine the best way to handle the diamonds.

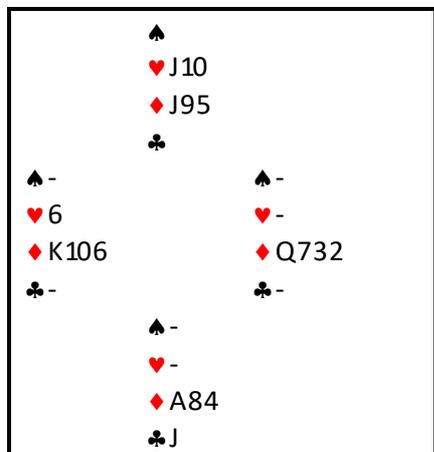
	♠	
	♥ J109	
	♦ J95	
	♣ 73	
♠ -		♠ 7
♥ 65		♥ -
♦ K106		♦ Q732
♣ Q98		♣ AK10
	♠ J	
	♥ -	
	♦ A84	
	♣ J654	

At my table, 3 rounds of spades reached this point, with the lead in dummy.

Needing two tricks from diamonds I decide that I had to play south for both the ace and the jack. So I led a diamond from dummy and finessed the ten – and down I went.

Can you see what I should have done?

Since South has the master spade, and I am hoping he has ♦ A as well, I could have engineered a throw-in, by playing three rounds of clubs, ending in dummy, and exiting with a spade. That would bring us to the following ending, with South to lead.



South is welcome to the ♣J, on which declarer throws the last heart, but South must then lead away from the ♦ A, presenting declarer with two diamond tricks – irrespective of the position of the ♦J.

Yes, these things are easy to spot afterwards!

Many thanks to the team:-

Tunde & Kati  
 Moira & Trevor  
 John & Victor  
 Paul & myself

And also to our reserves, Bridget & Sean.

And a big thank you to Liza, the match host.

Best wishes to all,

Roger Heath-Brown